

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier holds or improves in key categories of Maclean's rankings

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University has maintained or improved its position in several key categories of the annual Maclean's rankings of Canadian universities. Although Laurier moved from fifth place to sixth in the primarily undergraduate grouping, it has again emerged as the best Ontario university in the most heavily weighted category – the reputation survey.

Laurier finished fourth in the reputation survey, behind three institutions from Atlantic Canada. The category is worth 16 percent of the ranking score.

The university also maintained strong positions or improved in categories that rate the quality of its students and the support it provides to them. It again finished second in the proportion of students with 75 percent or higher and climbed from sixth to fifth in average entering grade. Laurier also placed second in the percentage of its budget that it allocates to scholarships and bursaries.

The university also did well in categories about the quality of its faculty. It moved from fourth place to second in faculty with PhDs and from twelfth to eighth in faculty awards. And it held on to its fourth place in social science/humanities grants and sixth place in medical/science grants.

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University officials are pleased to have done so well in key categories, despite a steady decline in government support for Ontario universities. Several reports have warned that the quality of Ontario’s education system is at risk because the province is dead last in per capita government support. Also, universities in Atlantic Canada generally charge higher tuitions.

“We’re very pleased that we’ve been able to continue to perform so well in our more important categories,” said Arthur Stephen, vice-president of university advancement. “It’s not at all surprising that all the universities ahead of us in reputation and four of the five universities ahead of us in the overall ranking are located outside of Ontario.”

Maclean’s has been ranking Canadian universities since 1991. The 2003 ranking issue is due on magazine shelves tomorrow.